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Protection Report R8-PR 28 April 1995

# Pest Alert

FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
IN COOPERATION WITH YOUR STATE AGENCY

## Tropical Soda Apple

The exotic plant, tropical soda apple (**Solanum viarum**), infests southern and central Florida, and has been reported in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. It has recently been Federally listed as a noxious weed. It is capable of degrading pastures, cropland, and recreation areas. The weed displaces native plants in meadows and woodlands throughout the South. Fruits are eaten by livestock and wildlife, which then distribute the seeds. Seeds may also be spread by contaminated hay, sod, composted manure, or potting media.

Figure 1. — Typical pasture infestation of Tropical Soda Apple.

If you see this plant, please contact:

Levester Pendergrass
(404) 347-3908
Jim Brown
(404) 347-2961
USDA Forest Service
1720 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30309-2417

Photos by Clyde Dowler — USDA - ARS

Figure 2. — Foliage with flowers.

Figure 3. — Foliage with immature fruits — mature fruits are yellow.

Figure 4. — Tropical Soda Apple 10-week-old plant grown in lab.

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